

Appendix C.

Letter to Secretary Nelson



Helen Bader School of Social Welfare
Office of the Dean

Enderis Hall
PO Box 786
Milwaukee, WI
53201-0786
414 229-4400 *phone*
414 229-5311 *fax*

December 4, 2004

Secretary Helene Nelson
Department of Health and Family Services
1 West Wilson Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Secretary Nelson:

Pursuant to 2003 Wisconsin Act 187, the "SVP Transitional Facility Siting Advisory Committee" in Milwaukee County has convened and is diligently working to complete its charge as outlined in Section 7m(g). Section 7m(g) requires that the committee submit a report to the departments of corrections and health and family services no later than December 31, 2004. The report must recommend at least three (3) specific Milwaukee County locations that the committee determines are appropriate for the placement of the SVP transitional facility.

This task requires an enormous amount of work from the committee in a very short time frame. Given the fact that our first meeting as a committee occurred on October 19, 2004, the total time for completion of the committee's work is a little over two months. The size of Milwaukee County, density of the population of children and large number of schools, parks, day care and other facilities that serve vulnerable populations in our county makes the task particularly difficult to complete within the allotted time.

Added to that is the strong public reaction to prior placements of SVPs in Milwaukee County, which has made it difficult for the committee to retain a real estate agent or agency willing to assist in conducting the search for possible locations. If no agent or agency steps forward, motions have already been passed which will necessitate teams of committee members physically driving through the county, looking for eligible properties. Finally, in addition to conducting the actual search for properties, the committee must plan and hold two public hearings prior to December 31.

We wish to emphasize that the committee continues to work towards fulfilling its charge by the December deadline, and will make every reasonable effort to do so. However, in light of the realities outlined above, the committee believes it important to inform you that it may not be in a position to submit three specific locations by the December 31, 2004 deadline. If you wish to discuss this matter with me more thoroughly, or if you have any questions or concerns regarding the committee's work, please feel free to contact me at 414-229-4400 or at stojkovi@uwm.edu.

Sincerely,

Stan Stojkovic, Dean
Helen Bader School of Social Welfare
Chair, SVP Siting Committee